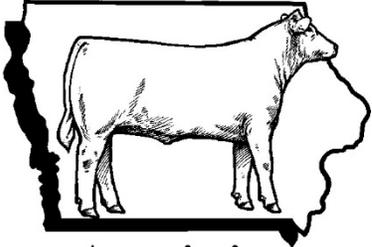


Iowa Cattlemen's



Association

Green and Gold Tag Preconditioned Programs

ICA Fact Sheet

June 2019

Iowa's Green and Gold Tag Preconditioned Programs provide a valuable service for cow/calf and feedlot producers alike. Cow/calf producers are able to market their tagged or preconditioned cattle for a premium and feedlot operators are able to purchase feeder cattle with health advantages.

Aside from the health benefits from "preconditioning" calves, cow/calf producers can also capitalize on this value-added program. According to statistics from the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA), producers have realized a \$2.00 - 6.00/cwt value from preconditioning calves prior to sale. At all-time record highs, feedlot operators will have a priority for healthy, low-stress animals that are produced with the state's programs.

The preconditioned programs are as follows:

GREEN TAG - but not weaned (not an IVMA/ICA certified program)

To receive a Green Tag, feeder calves (at least 4 months of age) are inspected, vaccinated and treated by the veterinarian. Optional vaccinations and procedures, such as implants, are performed by the veterinarian. Vaccinations for the Green Tag include a seven-way Clostridia, *Histophilus somni* (formerly *Haemophilus somnus*), IBR, PI-3, BVD, BRSV and *Mannheimia haemolytica* (formerly *Pasteurella haemolytica*). Calves are also treated for internal & external parasites and must be castrated and dehorned, if necessary. Cow/calf producers are required to have these procedures performed at least 3 weeks prior to shipment/sale.

Serially-numbered green tags are placed in the upper part of the left ear by the veterinarian once the requirements for the program have been met.

A calf with a green tag alone does not certify this animal has been weaned or "preconditioned". A calf with a green tag accompanied by an Iowa Green Tag Preconditioning Certificate, properly completed by both the producer and the veterinarian, certifies the calf has been "preconditioned" by IVMA/ICA standards.

GOLD TAG - but not weaning interval or ownership requirements have been completed (not an IVMA/ICA certified program)

To receive a Gold Tag, calves are re-vaccinated 14 or more days after the first round of vaccinations required in the Green Tag program. The second round of vaccinations includes: seven-way Clostridia, *Histophilus somni* (formerly *Haemophilus somnus*), IBR, PI-3, BVD and BRSV. A second *Mannheimia haemolytica* (formerly *Pasteurella haemolytica*) vaccination is optional.

A calf with a gold tag must be accompanied by a properly completed Iowa Gold Tag Preconditioning Certificate to meet IVMA/ICA certified standards.

Green and Gold Tag Preconditioning Programs:

The preconditioning concept, developed in Iowa in 1965, has grown into the largest program of its type in the United States. The concept of the Preconditioning (PC) program is simple. Feeder calves are weaned and fed a ration for 30 days and have met the requirements of the Green Tag Preconditioning Program for castration, dehorning, vaccination and treatment for external and internal parasites. Calves must be weaned, fed a ration and held at the farm of origin for at least 30 days. Once this occurs, the veterinarian provides an official preconditioning certificate to the producer, in addition to green tagging the calf.

Optional treatments for the PC program include vaccination for *Pasteurella multocida* and other diseases or being implanted with a growth promotant.

In 2015, the IVMA dispensed over 386,000 Iowa Green Tag numbers to veterinarians.

The Gold Tag Preconditioning Program is an optional advanced program that started back in 2004 due to buyer requests for a second round of vaccinations. To qualify for the Gold Tag Preconditioning Program, calves are re-vaccinated 14 or more days after the first round of vaccinations required in the Green Tag program. The second round of vaccinations include a seven-way Clostridia, *Histophilus somni* (formerly *Haemophilus somnus*), IBR, PI-3, BVD, and BRSV. A second *Mannheimia haemolytica* (formerly *Pasteurella haemolytica*) vaccination is optional. The gold tag accompanied with a properly completed Gold Tag Preconditioning Certificate (signed by both the producer and veterinarian) also signifies the animals have been owned by the producer for a minimum of 60 days. Other requirements for castration, dehorning and deworming/pouring, along with optional procedures are the same for the Gold Tag Preconditioning Certificate as they are with the Green Tag Preconditioning Certificate. In 2014, over 52,000 Gold tags were dispensed by the IVMA.

A gold tag is placed in the left ear of the calf above the green tag. After the calf has been weaned and fed a ration for 45 days, a Gold Tag Preconditioning Certificate is signed by the veterinarian and producer/owner. Calves are considered gold tag “preconditioned” only if accompanied by a gold certificate. If the double-vaccination program is definitely going to be used, the gold tag alone is acceptable.

For all four programs, all vaccinations and health procedures must be performed by a veterinarian for certification. Additionally, if the owner castrated and dehorned the animals, the veterinarian must certify the work was properly performed. The unique serial numbers on the green and gold tags allow producers to verify through the IVMA that the required procedures were performed on the calves. The IVMA office keeps track of reported incidents of concern and holds veterinarians accountable for the certification protocol and process. All producers and veterinarians are encouraged to fill out an incident report and submit it to the IVMA office if challenges arise.

By signing an Iowa Green or Gold Tag Preconditioning Certificate, all procedures are certified by both the owner and veterinarian. This document, which has four copies, transitions through the ownership process with the cattle all the way from the seller to the auction market, and then to the buyer. The owner is given one copy of the Preconditioning Certificate, one copy accompanies the calves and the veterinarian keeps one copy and sends another copy to the office of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA), which keeps the official records of the Iowa Preconditioning Program. By submitting this record, there is an accountability procedure that is established by the IVMA.